

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	Confirmation No.: 6981
Kenichi YOKOUCHI et al.	Date: January 26, 2009
Serial No.: 10/645,065	Group Art Unit: 1792
Filed: August 21, 2003	Examiner: Sylvia MacArthur
For: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD	

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**VIA EFS-WEB**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the paper issued December 24, 2008, it is proposed to amend the claims. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

**CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST**

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS**

1. ☐ If checked, an abstract (an amended abstract) is submitted herewith.
2. ☐ If checked, amendment(s) to the drawings are submitted herewith.
3. ☐ If checked, amendment(s) to the specification are submitted herewith.
4. ☒ If checked, amendment(s) to the claims are submitted herewith.